



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

February 7, 2013

Testimony in support of H.B. 5048, An Act Concerning the Sale of Copper to Scrap Metal Processors

Honorable Co-Chairmen, Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee;

My name is State Representative Ernest Hewett and I am here before you to testify in favor of House Bill 5048, An Act Concerning the Sale of Copper to Scrap Metal Processors. The purpose of this bill is to make it as difficult as possible for criminals to sell stolen copper to scrap metal processors. This bill, if enacted would require scrap metal processors to obtain proper identification in the form of a driver's license from the sellers of copper.

As you probably know, the last few years has seen a rise in copper theft in Connecticut. With the rise in the price of copper, which currently stands at \$3.77/lb., more criminals may be tempted to steal copper from various places, including utility companies. As you know, any costs associated with repairs caused by the stolen copper will sooner or later be passed onto the ratepayers. The United States Department of Energy estimates that 'simple thefts of \$100 in copper wire can cost the utility \$5,000 or more to repair.' We have to remember that not only utility companies are victims of this crime. Connecticut Trolley Museum in East Windsor suffered from devastation in 2012 when thieves stripped trolley cars from copper and brass. It is therefore imperative that we, as legislators can find a way to reduce the copper theft by instituting measures which will discourage this illegal activity in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Hewett'.

Ernest Hewett